

# City of Ridgecrest

February - March 2014



## City Manager Notes

### **TAB Funds Allocation –**

A review of the proposed Tax Allocation Bond (TAB) projects was brought to City Council at a regularly scheduled meeting on February 5, 2014.

Staff presented a list of TAB projects that were previously allocated by the Council. The City Council reviewed and discussed the list. Following this review, the City Council directed staff to move forward with expending TAB funds on the approved street projects.

Council further directed staff to return on a project by project basis for all additional expenditures.

### **Strategic Planning Goal Establishment Procedure**

At the March 5, 2014 City Council Meeting, the Council reviewed, discussed, and received comments on the priority goals shown to the right. Then, the Council moved forward with the approved process by directing the use of traditional and social media in receiving community input on priority goals.



*The Council also set the date of April 1, 2014 for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the priority goals.*

### **West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project –**

On Thursday February 27, 2014 bids were opened for the road reconstruction and rehabilitation of West Ridgecrest Boulevard from Mahan Avenue to South China Lake Boulevard. A total of three bids were received as follows:

Griffith Construction Co. \$5,484,874.00

Bowman Asphalt Inc. \$6,097,385.30

Granite Construction Co. \$7,009,385.30

The bids were reviewed by the engineering firm of Willdan Engineering and the Resident Engineer. Based on this review, it will be recommended to the City Council that the contract be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, Griffith Construction Company, with the low bid of \$5,484,874.00.

## Staff Prioritized Goals

### **Public Safety and Code Enforcement (Police)**

1. Maintain Adequate Staffing to Keep the City of Ridgecrest Safe
2. Sustain a Serviceable Fleet and Acquire Modern Equipment
3. Develop an Energy Project and Expanded Feline Facility at the Animal Shelter

### **Infrastructure (Public Works)**

1. Implement and Fund PMS
2. Prepare and Implement SS Line Repair Plan
3. Prioritize Master Drainage Plan

### **Quality of Life (Parks & Recreation)**

1. Improve quality of all parks and sports facilities
2. Meet the needs of the youth and seniors
3. Explore partnerships with youth organizations, service groups, and businesses (adopt a median or park).

### **Economic Development and Redevelopment**

1. Create a Signature Event for the Community
2. Become an Alternative Energy Center
3. Promote Low Income, Senior, & Young Professional Housing

### **Employee and Organizational Issues (Admin)**

1. Achieve Sufficient Staffing Levels to match priorities and maintain LOS
2. Cross Train Employees
3. Update the Municipal Code

### **Finance, Budget, and Revenue (Finance)**

1. Pursue Grant Funding (Actively engaging in finding revenue opportunities)
2. Explore Utility User Tax (WW Franchise Tax)
3. Establish a Parks and Recreation District

### **Partnerships and Resources (Admin)**

1. Increase level of Engagement with other Entities
2. Partner with the Base
3. Promote an Economic Development Alliance

The Federal Transportation Improvement funds administered by Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans will provide a total of \$6,200,000.00 in funding. After the contract is awarded, construction will commence. The anticipated start date will be early April, 2014. The contract allows 210 calendar days to complete the work.

# City of Ridgecrest

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## Economic Development

This last month has been a busy and exciting one. Work continues on the several new retail stores currently under construction in the old Mervyns building with signs appearing on China Lake Blvd. In addition to these, there are several other new stores and restaurants under discussion and currently in the site selection process.

With the release of TAB funds, the Economic Development Department has received several proposals for the development of industrial development projects and is currently establishing its budget and programs for the use of the \$2 million in funding. Programs under discussion include, but are not limited to, an industrial development assistance program with new jobs and property taxes as its main objective; a local business expansion and rehabilitation rebate grant program with new jobs, improved property and sales taxes as its objective; and an existing shopping center rehabilitation rebate grant program with improved sales and property tax generation as its goals.

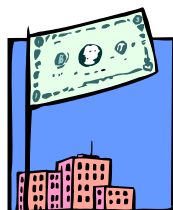
Other areas of activity have been the completion of the 2014-15 ROPS 'A' submission to the Department of Finance (DOF) and the submission of the Agency Property Management Plan (PMP) plan so the sale of the former Agency and City real estate assets can occur.

The Department is working with PG & E for the establishment of creating a staging location for the pipe line testing occurring within Ridgecrest. PG & E and the City have signed a contract for vacant land use for a three month period. Work has begun on two sites on China Lake Blvd by PG & E.

Staff has been involved in discussion with several retail and industrial firms on their relocation to the city center around cheap energy costs achieved by new solar fields. A solar energy to manufacturing jobs effort.

Other projects have included the discussions of establishing rail service to the city and working with the Inyokern airport in establishment of an Economic Coalition between the airport and the city to better provide commuter airline service back in the valley.

Other activities included attending IWVED, RACVB, and Senior Services meetings.





**Police Department**



**RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The following tables reflect Part 1 Crime Data, of offenses reported to the Ridgecrest Police Department in January through December. The data listed below is collected from our Records Management System, and then sorted into Part 1 categories per Department of Justice reporting standards.

## 2014 Monthly Part 1 Crime Report

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# City of Ridgecrest

February-March 2014



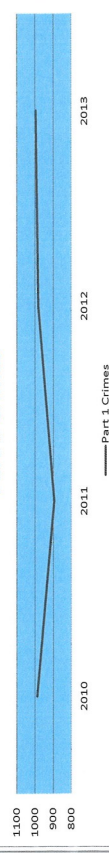
## Police Department

### Ridgecrest Police Department Statistics

#### Crime

	Monthly Comparison			Year To Date		
	Feb 13	Feb 14	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
<b>Violent Crime</b>	26	27	4%	55	61	11%
Murder	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Rape	0	0	-100%	1	1	0%
Robbery	1	0	-100%	1	1	0%
Assault	23	26	9%	52	57	10%
<b>Property Crime</b>	50	34	-32%	120	81	-33%
Burglary	21	12	-43%	47	27	-43%
Larceny	20	18	-10%	62	45	-27%
Vehicle Theft	5	0	-100%	5	0	-100%
Arson	0	0	-100%	0	0	-100%
<b>Part 1 Crimes</b>	71	62	-13%	171	143	-16%

Part 1 Crimes



#### Personnel

	Allocated	Filled	Vacant
Total	32	30	2
Sworn	32	30	2
Professional Staff	17	17	0

#### Investigation

	Monthly Comparison			Year to Date		
	Feb 13	Feb 14	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
News Cases	315	246	-22%	751	365	-51%
Arrests	33	13	-61%	48	45	-6%
Inactivated	44	22	-50%	143	94	-34%
Active	546	133	-76%	956	204	-79%

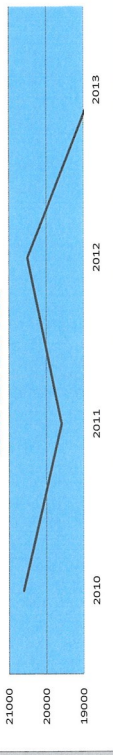
#### K-9 Deploy

	Monthly Comparison			Year to Date		
	Feb 13	Feb 14	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Deployments	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Arrests	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Building Searches	0	1	100%	1	2	100%
Vehicle Searches	0	3	300%	1	4	300%
Drug Finds	0	2	200%	1	3	200%

#### Performance Measures

	Monthly Comparison			Year to Date		
	Feb 13	Feb 14	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Patrol Activity	2456	2327	-5%	5127	4712	-8%
Calls for Service	1475	1372	-7%	3225	2665	-17%
Officer Initiated Incidents	991	955	-4%	1802	2047	14%
Other OIA Incidents	703	557	-21%	1362	1260	-7%
Reports Taken	345	297	-14%	691	655	-5%
Arrests	203	180	-11%	397	388	-2%
Felony Arrests	67	48	-28%	120	93	-23%
Juvenile Arrests	13	17	31%	21	30	43%
Drug Related	54	42	-22%	83	74	-11%

Calls for Service



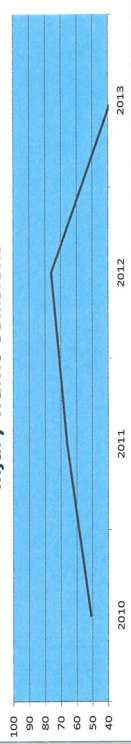
#### Traffic

	Monthly Comparison			Year to Date		
	Feb 13	Feb 14	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Citations	38	42	11%	71	108	52%
Moving	11	3	-73%	18	17	-6%
Non-Moving	7	15	114%	18	23	28%
RMC Violation	16	0	0%	28	0	-100%
Collisions	2	0	0%	6	3	-50%
Initial	13	12	-8%	22	29	32%
Non-Injury	0	0	0%	0	1	100%
DUI Related	0	0	0%	0	0	0%

Top 5 Collision Intersections YTD

1. Mahan/Upjohn Ave
2. S. Gold Canyon St./E. Wilson Ave
3. E. Church Ave./S. Lincoln St.
4. S. China Lake Blvd./Bowman Rd
5. N. China Lake Blvd./E. Ward Ave

Injury Traffic Collisions





# City of Ridgecrest

February - March 2014



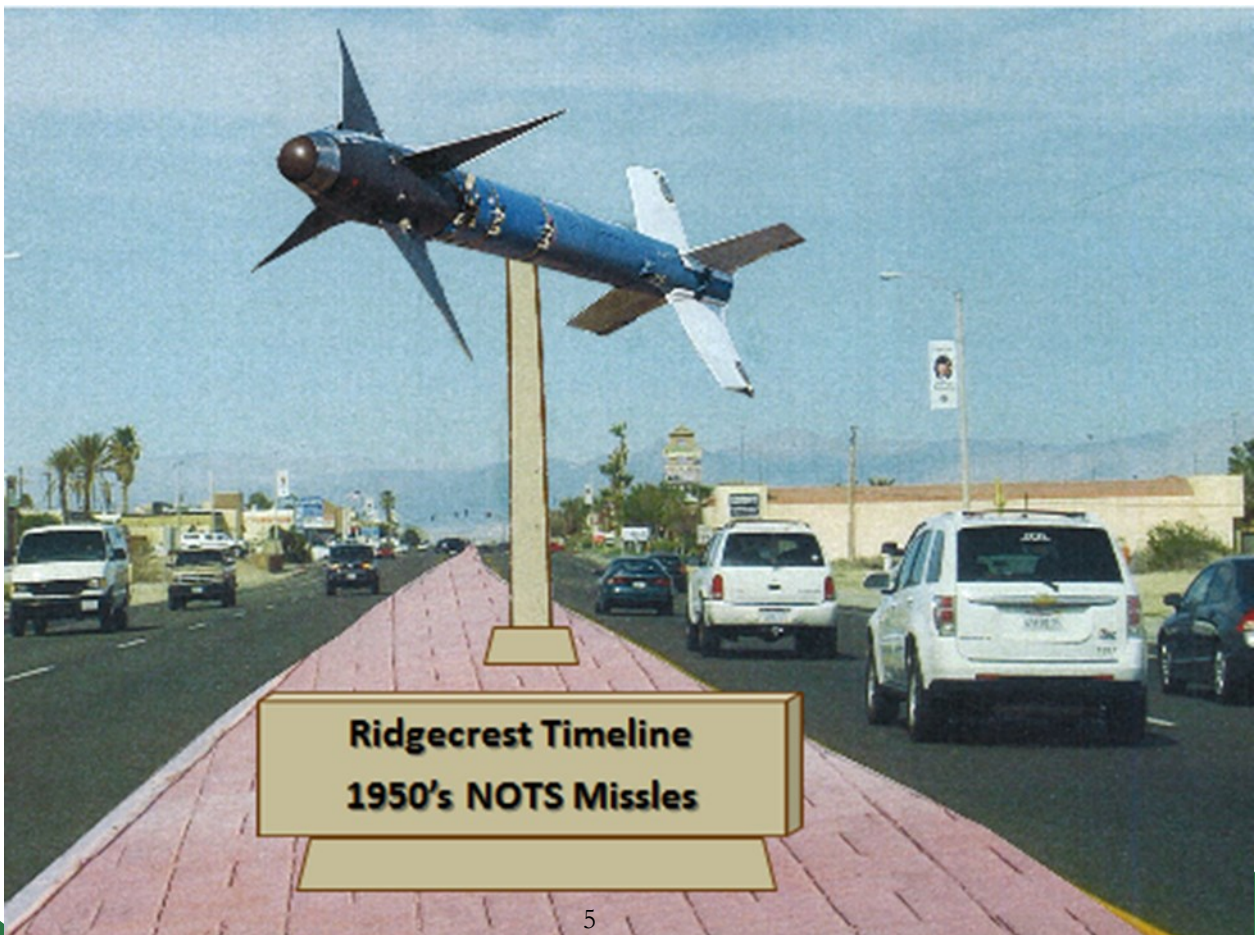
## Public Services - Planning Department

### **Ridgecrest Master Plan for Medians A Grand Opportunity for a Grand City**

By Matthew Alexander AICP, City Planner

Did you ever think about how many vehicles drive up and down China Lake Blvd.? It's a lot! On a typical day more than 20,000 cars and trucks drive on our major roadway connecting City Hall and the Balsam District with the Naval Air Weapons Station. China Lake Blvd. is far and away Ridgecrest's "Main Street" and center of gravity.

Not only do most Ridgecrestians venture onto the Boulevard on a regular basis, but this thoroughfare is also the drive most frequented by tourists coming to the Indian Wells Valley. Further, most contractors and military personnel visiting the Base drive China Lake Blvd. And don't forget about the Brits, Australians and all of our other overseas guests. Doing something visually significant along our Main Street will make a lasting impact on locals and visitors alike.



# City of Ridgecrest

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## Public Services - Planning Department

### **Ridgecrest Master Plan for Medians (continued)**

Recently, Cal Trans authorized a plan to construct a raised median within China Lake Blvd. between Ridgecrest Blvd. and Inyokern Road. What we have here is a marvelous opportunity to promote Ridgecrest heritage by creating visual images along this roadway's medians promoting our fair City.

Last month, the Planning Commission approved Median Art Project 14-01 for median improvements on Drummond Ave. proposed by the Ridge Project. At that time it became clear that a comprehensive plan for median designs and improvements is needed.

The Planning Commission has been charged with preparing a *Master Plan for Medians*. This presents a most exciting opportunity to develop something truly outstanding on behalf of current and future Ridgecrest generations.

In February Caltrans presented its proposal for medians along China Lake Blvd. from Ridgecrest Blvd to Inyokern Road. Caltrans indicated that they are willing to work with the City toward preparing the medians which will allow the City to implement our own creative designs and artwork.

The Planning Commission has initiated a ten month program to prepare the master plan, It is recommended that this process be mindful of the following consideration is:

- ◆ Think out of the box to create long term visual impacts within the medians,
- ◆ Ensure that the median projects involve all sectors of the City including businesses, schools, & community groups,
- ◆ The median designs should reflect the unique aspects of our City and the Indian Wells Valley,
- ◆ The median designs should consider low maintenance and not hinder vehicular movements,
- ◆ In addition to encouraging unique and compelling designs median improvements should also develop unifying and coordinated streetscapes,
- ◆ The median designs should promote our community by empower residents to take ownership of our future.

The draft *Ridgecrest Master Plan for Medians* prepared by the Planning Commission is expected to be available for review and approval by the City Council by next September. This should coincide suitably with Cal Trans China Lake Blvd. median improvement project. This means that the City should be soliciting median design proposals from community organizations by next fall.

Truly A Grand Opportunity For A Grand City!



# City of Ridgcrest

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## Public Works Department

### Traffic Control Policies and Procedures

Often enforcement, not traffic control devices, resolves traffic issues.

#### *Maybe a Stop Sign Will Slow Traffic on Our Street?*

Before a stop sign can be installed, a traffic study must be conducted to determine the prevalent speeds of vehicles, sight distance restriction between all approaching vehicles and analysis of crash data.

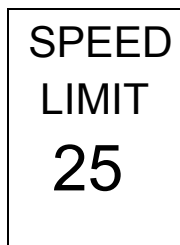
Stop signs installed in the wrong places for the wrong purposes usually create more problems than they solve. One common misuse of stop signs is to arbitrarily interrupt traffic, either by causing it to stop or by causing such an inconvenience that motorists are forced to use other routes.

Studies conducted in many parts of the country show that there is a high incidence of intentional violations where stop signs are installed as "nuisances" or "speed breakers". These studies show that speed was only reduced in the immediate vicinity (about 100 to 150 feet) of the "nuisance" stop signs. But, speeds were actually higher between stop signs than they would have been if these signs had not been installed. These same studies show that drivers increase their speed between unwarranted stop signs to make up for lost time. Because of these studies and the increased speeds of drivers on streets with unwarranted stop signs, the Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Caltrans Traffic Manual clearly state, "stop signs should not be used for speed control."

At the right place and under the right conditions, a stop sign tells drivers and pedestrians who has the right of way. Nationally recognized standards have been established to determine when stop signs should be used. These standards, or "Warrants," are:

- Intersection of a less important road with a main road where the normal right-of-way rule is unduly hazardous,
- Street entering a through highway or street,
- Unsignalized intersection in a signalized area, or
- Other intersections where a combination of high speed, restricted view, and serious crash record indicates a need for control by the stop sign.

Prior to the application of these stop sign Warrants, consideration should be given to less restrictive measures, such as a Yield sign. Most drivers are reasonable and prudent, but, when confronted with unreasonable restrictions, they frequently violate them and develop a general contempt for all traffic controls – often with tragic results.



# City of Ridgecrest

February - March 2014



## Public Works Department

### Transit



During the months of February and March the Transit division has been working on our Maintenance Garage Project. The City received funding from California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for \$23,193 to utilize for the purchase and installation of a Corporation Yard Security Camera System.

In February, Starla Thomas, Richard Keith, and Karen Harker attended a Conference Call Training to cover an American Disability Act (ADA) issue the State of California was found to be non-compliant with during a Federal Transit Audit. On March 31, 2014, they will be traveling to Long Beach for additional training. Ridgecrest transit is in the process of making changes to our system in order to be in compliance with the current regulations being imposed by the Federal Transportation Administration.

In March, we are focusing on the new Title VI Compliance Mandates. On March 4, 2014, Starla Shaver and Karen Harker attended webinar training, and will complete a second webinar in late March, with a final training session in May. Title VI regulates discrimination in the transportation realm.

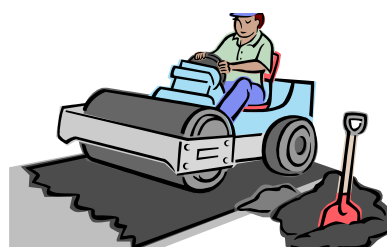
In April, we will focus on establishing a marketing campaign for Transit services.



### Street Department

The Street Department has started preparing the streets which are to be resurfaced this spring. They are South Downs Street, South China Lake Boulevard to West Bowman Road; West Drummond Avenue, North Norma Street to North Downs Street; North Norma Street, West Las Flores Avenue to West Drummond Avenue and South Gold Canyon Street Benson Avenue to Hayden Avenue. We will be crack filling, spot patching, removing paint and markers and cleaning these areas prior to applying a chip seal followed a week later by a slurry seal. The end result is a smooth hard wearing new surface for the pavement.

The Engineering Department has put together a 2014 Public Works Projects List for the upcoming Year. On the next page of this report you will see projects that will either be under construction, design projects, proposed projects that will be launched, Grant Applications that will be applied for, and miscellaneous projects that happen within our department. Please take a look to see all that going on in the Public Works Department.





# City of Ridgecrest

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## Public Works Department

### 2014 Public Works Projects List

#### Street Construction Projects

- W. Ridgecrest Blvd. reconstruction,  
Mahan to China Lake Blvd.
- S. Sunland Street construction,  
Upjohn to Bowman Rd.
- S. Sunland Street reconstruction,  
E. Ridgecrest Blvd. to Upjohn Ave
- S. China Lake Blvd. overlay,  
Upjohn Ave. to Bowman Rd.
- Gateway Blvd. overlay,  
Bowman Rd. to Upjohn Ave.
- N. Mahan St. overlay,  
Ward Ave. to Graaf Ave.
- Safe Routes to School Projects:
  - Street improvements around Las Flores  
Elementary
  - Street improvements around Gateway  
Elementary
  - Street improvements around Monroe  
Middle School,
- Traffic signal construction at Upjohn and  
China Lake Blvd.
- Seven micro paving projects:
  - Las Flores, Norma to Downs
  - Downs Street, Bataan to Bowman
  - Drummond, Downs to Norma
  - Dolphin, Mahan to Downs
  - Norma, Las Flores to Drummond,  
Cape seal
  - Gold Canyon Rd., Benson to Hayden
  - Downs, China Lake Blvd. to Dolphin,  
Cape seal

#### Facilities Construction

- City Yard Improvements
- Bus Garage Construction

### 2014 Public Works Projects List

#### Design Projects

- S. China Lake Blvd. overlay,  
Bowman Rd. to College Hts.
- Downs Street, construction,  
Upjohn Ave. to W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Traffic signal synchronization between  
Ridgecrest Blvd. & College Hts.
- Traffic signal at Bowman Rd and China Lake  
Blvd
- Drummond Ave. widening between Inyo St.  
and Downs St.
- Seven traffic signal upgrades
- Twelve stop intersections signage and street  
markings
- Sign Reflectivity Management Plan

#### Project Proposals to be launched

- CDBG, Senior Center Improvements
- CDBG, ADA Ramps and ADA Transition Plan
- S. Warner Street Design, between Drummond  
and Howell
- Richmond Street Bike Path
- S. China Lake Blvd. design between Bowman  
Rd. and College Hts.
- RFP's for design services for 2015 projects

#### Wastewater Projects

- Video inventory of sewer lines.

#### Grant Applications

- Safe Routes to School
- Active Transportation Plan projects
- HSIP
- CMAQ
- RSTP

#### Miscellaneous

- Yearly Engineers Report for Lighting and  
Landscaping District #1
- Plan check for Walmart

# City of Ridgecrest

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## Public Works Department

### Wastewater January Operations & Maintenance Report

The City of Ridgecrest Wastewater Treatment Facility operated within design and compliance directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56.

- ◆ The Department inspected and passed (2) replacement connections to the sanitary sewage system.
- ◆ The Department responded to (2) requests for service, which was homeowner lateral related.
- ◆ The Department as compliance with Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Program (SSMP) performed line maintenance on 350 ft. of main line collection system.
- ◆ The Reclamation Department reclaimed 1.47 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.
- ◆ The Department as compliance with California State Water Resources Control Board Order # 6-00-56 performed the semiannual pond sampling; results are included with this month's SMR
- ◆ The Department in compliance with board order # 6-00-56 & 6-93-86 requirements had the semiannual ground water sampling completed at both the Reclamation Facility and up gradient and down gradient from the Wastewater Treatment Facility; results are included with this month's SMR

### Wastewater February Operations & Maintenance Report

The City of Ridgecrest Wastewater Treatment Facility operated within design and compliance directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56.

- ◆ The Department inspected and passed (3) new connections to the sanitary sewage system.
- ◆ The Department responded to (2) requests for service, which was homeowner lateral related.
- ◆ The Department as compliance with the Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Program (SSMP) performed line maintenance on 6,205 ft. of main line collection system.
- ◆ The Reclamation Department reclaimed 2.14 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.
- ◆ The Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Sewer Condition Assessment and CCTV work, the RFP has a Bid opening date of March 19, 2014.
- ◆ The Department as part of the safety protocol is painting the safety barrier hand rails a florescent safety yellow, for OSHA compliance.

# City of Ridgecrest

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## Public Works Department

### Building Department

Kern County is changing over to another Accela program from Permits Plus to Accela Automation. It is an internet based system that will keep all property information provided by the Public Works Department which includes: Engineer & Survey Services Department, Building Inspection Department, Planning Department and Code compliance, in a citizen accessible environment through The Cloud. So far Code Compliance is not allowing others to enter any fees, or notes to their area. They will still need to be contacted directly for any code compliance issues. They do not want to lose control so it may not happen anytime soon. The training Francie Lewis and Dorene Morgan have been provided by Kern County is broken into 7 sessions. Other Departments have different sessions and access.

This program will be live at all times and accessible to the public. It may drop the number of inquiries about information from personnel because citizens can look at any information they wish and it will be updated as inspections are completed, permits are issued and planning documentation is filed. It is vastly different from the old system and ours. Dorene is anxious to see how this works out. The purpose of the change is for transparency and user friendliness. It is scheduled to go live March 21, 2014, the same day P.E. Director, of Kern County Charles "Chuck" Lackey retires. Robert Sawyer will be the Interim P.E. Director of Kern County beginning March 21, 2014. Francie and Dorene do thank the City of Ridgecrest Engineering Department, Loren Culp, Karen Harker and Larry Miller for watching the counter in our absence. It has been an unavoidable inconvenience for the 7 days while we went to Bakersfield. Dorene is glad we do not have to learn on our own since it is vastly different than what they are used to using. This is a good way to see if it may be something we can use ourselves without having to ask for a demo.

